Research Notes for Jeanne Jane Reid (1780–1846)

Research Overview:

Jeanne Jane Reid was born in the late eighteenth century, a period in Ireland where parish and civil records for women rarely survive. Her place of birth—Aghaloo Parish, County Tyrone—is known only from her Canadian grave, a late and indirect source that carries unusual weight; nothing in the surviving record anchors her early life in Ireland.

Jeanne Jane Reid's documented life begins with marriage and motherhood. She and her husband, James McVey, began raising their family in Ireland, where their first children were born. Sometime between the births of their younger children, the family immigrated to Montréal, arriving with small children during a period when many immigrant families left little trace. The death of a young child shortly after arrival is among the earliest surviving records of the family in Canada. It marks the point at which Jeanne becomes consistently visible in the French Canadian parish registers.

Those parish records preserve what Ireland does not. Baptisms and burials recorded in Montréal document Jeanne's role as a mother over the decades and establish continuity immediately after the family arrives in Canada. Through these entries, her adult life can be followed with unusual clarity, even though she appears almost entirely through family relationships rather than through independent identifiers.

What survives of Jeanne Jane Reid's life is defined by early migration and sustained presence. Her life can be traced with clarity in Montréal, while her origins in Ireland remain largely unrecorded.

Timeline

Abt. 1780 - Birth at Aghaloo Parish, Tyrone, Ireland[1]

6 May 1806 - Birth of son John Patrick McEvoy (1806–1857) in Ireland[2]

1810 - Birth of daughter Elisabeth McVey (1810–1894) in Ireland[3]

1812 - Birth of son Martin McEvoy (1812 -) in Aughrim, Roscommon, Ireland.[4]

Between 1815 and 1818 – Immigration from Ireland to Montréal, inferred from Irish births and subsequent records in Canada.

Aug 1815 - Birth of son Hugh McVey (1815–1818)[5]

13 Apr 1818 - Death of son Hugh McVey (1815–1818) in Montréal, Quebec, Canada[6]

10 Jul 1819 - Birth of daughter Suzanne McVey (1819–1893) in Montréal, Quebec, Canada[7]

17 Apr 1846 Death of Jeanne Jane Reid (c.1786–1846) at Montréal, Quebec, Canada[8]

Apr 1846 - Burial of Jeanne Jane Reid (c.1786–1846)at Montréal, Québec, Canada[9]